The Pipevine

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

February 2025

February Field Trip

Register for Field Trips using Meet Up
https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Mount-Lassen-Chapter/

Sign the waiver using this link: Mount Lassen Chapter 2025 Events

Ferns and Fern Allies

Saturday, February 8 • 9 a.m. – noon
Meet at the beginning of the parking lot for Bidwell Park Golf Course. We will walk downstream along the south side of Big Chico Creek until we get to the fern cliff where we will look at ferns and fern allies alongside and up the steep cliff. It will be about one to one and one half mile round trip on level trail. Ends at noon. Rain cancels.

Leader: Marjorie

Calflora & a Quiz

Every wild plant species in the state has its own distribution map: that's 8,500+ distribution maps available to you via the Calflora website.

Calflora staff combine, or aggregate, wild plant data from many sources. One source is plant specimen records from Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH); another is iNaturalist records. Calflora staff also refresh the records from their aggregated sources regularly. That way, you see their new records reflected in Calflora.

Quiz: which Atriplex species distribution does this Calflora map reflect? Please email news@calflora.org with your response.

–Calflora

President Biden Designates New California National Monuments

President Joe Biden announced the designations of Chuckwalla National Monument and the Sáttítla Highlands National Monument, protecting 848,000 acres of lands rich in natural and cultural significance. Tribal members, local communities, and organizations, including the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), celebrated the news, which follows years–even decades–of work from Tribes and supporters.

Read the full news releases from the Protect Sattitla and Protect Chuckwalla campaigns for details on this news, which honors the calls of Tribal leaders.

"For generations, my people have fought to protect Sáttítla, and today we celebrate the voices of our Ancestors being heard," said Yatch Bamford, Chairman of the Pit River Nation. "Sáttítla Highlands National Monument is a victory not just for Tribal Nations but for every American who understands the value of clean water, healthy lands, and preserving the true history of these United States of America. These designations demonstrate what is possible when we center Indigenous leadership and honor the deep connections between Tribes and their homelands. We thank President Biden for listening to the many diverse voices that called for this designation and for standing in solidarity with the Pit River Nation."

"We all acknowledge that these are first and foremost ancestral lands of California Native American Tribes," said California Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot. "We would not be here today without the steadfastness and perseverance of our Tribal leaders."

In addition to opportunities for Tribal co-stewardship, the monument designations create multiple benefits for California, including boosts to local economies, access to nature, protection of important water sources, and the safeguarding of biodiversity. Northeast of Mt. Shasta, the new Sáttítla Highlands National Monument is home to more than 450 types of native plants, including 19 special status species like the threatened whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) and the rare talus collomia (*Collomia larsenii*), for which Sáttítla's exposed lava flows provide one of only two places in California where the talus collomia grows naturally. Just south of Joshua Tree National Park, Chuckwalla National Monument now establishes the largest corridor of protected lands in the continental United States stretching 600 miles, according to the White House announcement.

"This new Moab to Mojave Conservation Corridor protects wildlife habitat and a wide range of natural and cultural resources along the Colorado River, across the Colorado Plateau, and into the deserts of California. It is a vitally important cultural and spiritual landscape that has been inhabited and traveled by Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples since time immemorial," said the White House statement.

The Chuckwalla designation is important for sensitive desert ecosystems like the microphyll woodlands found in the Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket and nearly 60 rare plant species. Noteworthy plants in the new monument include the Munz's cholla (*Cylindropuntia munzii*), which can grow up to 13 feet tall, the Chuckwalla cholla (*Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*), and a hidden stand of more than 60 native California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*), the state's only native palm tree, deep in the Chuckwalla Mountains.

"The California Native Plant Society is thrilled and grateful to see these national monument designations, which have received overwhelming community support, give rare plant species a fighting chance for survival, and honor knowledges held by the land's original stewards since time immemorial," said CNPS Executive Director Dr. Jun Bando. "California faces the highest risks for species extinction in the nation, and habitat loss is the leading cause. Protecting intact habitat, like Chuckwalla and Sáttítla, is essential to stopping the extinction crisis and avoiding the worst impacts of climate change."

CNPS, with local chapters near monument locations, has been a strong supporter and scientific voice on behalf of California national monument campaigns, which include last spring's expansions of Berryessa Snow Mountain and the San Gabriel Mountains national monuments.

—CNPS

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☐ **New** ☐ **Renew**

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Lime Saddle Trail

Saturday, March 15

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Chico Park & Ride west lot, or 10 a.m. at the trailhead for the Lime Saddle Trail. Bring water, lunch/snacks, wear sturdy hiking shoes and dress for the weather. We will be hiking about 4 miles on a nice loop trail with gentle terrain. Of interest are views of Lake Oroville, a limestone outcropping filled with fossils, an old lime kiln and possible flowers, as the trail traverses a slope dotted with oaks and old growth manzanita.

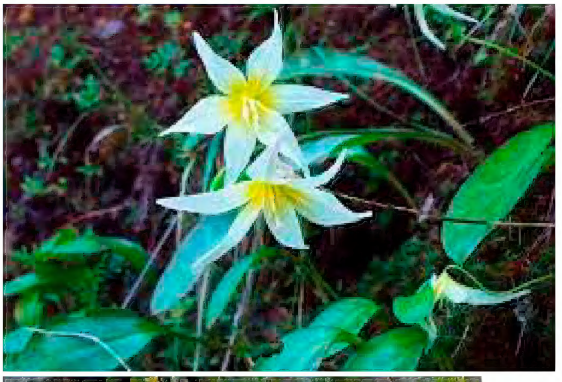
Leaders: Marjorie and Diane

Fawn Lilies Magalia Serpentine

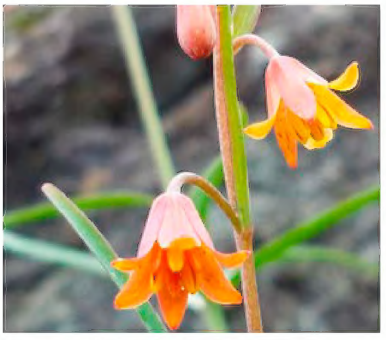
Saturday, March 29

Meet at the Chico Park & Ride (Hwy 32/ 99) at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, water, and hiking gear. We will park at the intersection of Skyway and Coutolenc Road then hike down on a rough trail to West Branch Feather River for lunch. On this serpentine slope are California endemic McNab cypress seedlings, which sprouted after the Camp fire. Carpets of yellow and white Sierra fawn lilies (*Erythronium multiscapideum*) are one of the most spectacular spring flower displays in the area. Two rare plants may also be blooming, Butte County Fritillary (*Fritillaria eastwoodii*) and a Butte County toothwort (*Cardamine pachystigma*).

Leader: Marjorie



Fawn lily



Butte County Fritillary

Friends of the Ahart Herbarium Workshops & Events

All Things Botanically Related Presentation Series

In case you miss one or would like to see it later, all presentations are on the friends of the Ahart Herbarium webpage and can be viewed at your convenience. All live presentations are on the 3rd Thursday of the month. You will have to register for each zoom presentation.

These presentations are via zoom and you will have to register for each one at:

https://friendsoftheahartherbarium.org/presentation-series

February 20	Eric Knapp, Forest Management with the Park Fire
March 20	Lawrence Janeway, California Herbaria databases
April 17	John Whittlesey, California Salvias
May 15	Kyle Merriam, McNab Cypress
June 19	Adrienne Edwards, TBD

Who are the of The Friends of the Ahart Herbarium?

The Friends of the Ahart Herbarium is an all-volunteer organization that promotes botanical education and outreach. Our mission is to provide support for the herbarium and demonstrate and publicize the value of the herbarium to the community.

The Friends of the Ahart Herbarium operates under auspices of the California State University Chico, and the University Foundation, and thereby enjoys non-profit status and has access to the use of University classrooms and equipment. At least half of workshop registration fees go to help support the Friends activities on behalf of the Herbarium.

What We've Achieved:

- Consistently conducted low cost botanical workshops (general and technical).
- Raised funds to supplement support for the Herbarium.
- Published a newsletter reporting botanical news and activities.
- Built an endowment for the Herbarium.
- Facilitated the Jim Jokerst Field Botany Award for student research in botany and plant ecology.
- Held an annual meeting featuring a distinguished guest speaker
- Sponsor a native plant photo contest

What is an Herbarium ?

An herbarium (plural: herbaria) is a collection of preserved plant specimens maintained for scientific purposes.

A herbarium is an important resource for biodiversity, ecological, and evolutionary research studies. It is a primary data source of dried and labeled plant specimens that are stored and available for research. A herbarium is similar to a library but the information is stored as a pressed, dried, mounted specimen on paper with the plant information such as identification and location.

The Ahart Herbarium

The Ahart Herbarium is located at CSUC in Holt Hall room 129

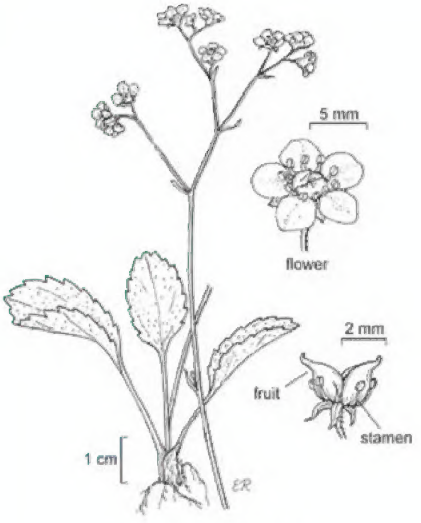
The herbarium is open Fridays 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (or by appointment)
https://www.csuchico.edu/herbarium/

—David Popp

Plant Spotlight

Micranthes californica

Micranthes californica (California saxifrage) is one of the early plants to see in our area, which can be found in moist, shady places generally from the valley to around 3000 feet. It has a geographical overlap with *Micranthes integrifolia* (wholeleaf saxifrage), and can be difficult to separate. There may be some crossing going on. *Micranthes californica* leaf blade is shallowly toothed; inflorescence ± open, often 1-sided; flowers not clustered to loosely clustered; sepals reflexed, sometimes spreading while *Micranthes integrifolia* leaf blade ± entire to minutely toothed; inflorescence not one-sided; flowers loosely to densely clustered; sepals erect.



Micranthes californica
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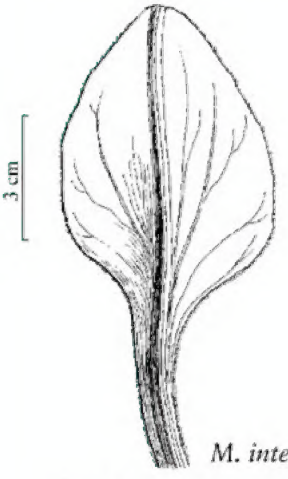

From Flora of North America (FNA)

—David Popp

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Post Camp Fire Restoration in Paradise

Thursday, April 17

Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. or Dolores Street in Paradise at 9 a.m. Gerry Armour will show us the work he has done on his five acres after the Camp Fire. He will tell us about the trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers he has planted and manages with loving care. End by noon. For those who would like a longer field trip, bring a lunch to eat at Bille Park and we will hike the Bille Park Trail to the look-out point.

Leader: Marjorie and Gerry

Reserve a spot on Meetup, and please sign a required 2025 waiver.
https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Mount-Lassen-Chapter/

Bille Park, Paradise

Table Mountain: Wildflowers and Waterfalls

Thursday, April 24

Meet at Chico Park & Ride nearest Hwy 99 freeway in order to leave at 9 a.m. or at 9:45 a.m. at the Table Mountain Preserve parking lot on Cherokee Road. We will walk about 2 miles round trip to Phantom Falls. Wildflowers and waterfalls should be in full force as a result of this year's rainfall. We will see the spectacular view across the Sacramento Valley. Bring sturdy shoes, layered clothing for warmth, water, snacks, and lunch.

Leader: Marjorie

Reservations can be made on Mount Lassen Chapter Meetup, https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Mount-Lassen-Chapter/where you will also find information on the required waiver and the CDFW Lands Pass ($5.66) required for entry.

Lewisia rediviva or Bitter-root

Wildflower Phyto-blitz Workshop

Saturday, April 12, 2025
The Nature Conservancy's Vina Plains Preserve

Presented by Friends of the Ahart Herbarium at California State University, Chico

Identify, tally, and enjoy as many species of spring wildflowers as possible in the field (a "phyto-blitz").

If you're new to these vernal pools, then come learn some new plants with the experts. If you're a pro, re-find your old acquaintances and teach more plant enthusiasts what you know.

Participants must register to attend, by noon on Friday, April 11.

Registration information will be posted at the Friends of the Ahart Herbarium website: https://friendsoftheahartherbarium.org/

Native Plant Demonstration Garden Coming to Paradise

A native plant demonstration garden project is being launched in Paradise along the bike path, which is called the Yellowstone Kelly Memorial Trail. The first phase of the project is being planted March 2025 at the Paradise Community Park with the hopes of expanding the project along the entirety of the bike path in the coming years.

The project blends the goals of enhancing native landscapes, promoting wildfire safety and beautifying the lovely bike path. Plants that will be incorporated into the garden include *Ceanothus prostratus* and *C. lemonii*, *Lupinus albifrons* and *L. bicolor*, *Eschscholzia californica*, *Baccharis polaris*, *Rhus aramatica*, *Lepecthinia fragrans* among many other native grasses and berries.

The project is being undertaken by the Paradise Ridge Fire Safe Council and Butte County Fire Safe (BCFSC) in cooperation with the Town of Paradise. This first phase of the garden is dedicated to the late Ward Habriel for his work as gardener, composter, and member of the BCFSC.

The project is being funded in part by a Neighbor-to-Neighbor grant from the Paradise Recreation and Park District as well as a generous donation from the Paradise Garden Club. For more information, please contact the BCFSC at Ready@Buttefiresafe.net or call 530-877-0984.

—Butte County Fire Safe Council

Plant Spotlight

Western Houndstongue
Adelinia grandis

Adelinia grandis (formerly *Cynoglossum grande*) is a species of flowering plant in the borage family also known by the common name Pacific hound's tongue. It is native to western North America from British Columbia to California, where it grows in shady areas in woodland and chaparral. On the forest floor of California oak woodlands typical plant associates are *Calochortus luteus*, *Delphinium variegatum* and *Calochortus amabilis*. It is a perennial herb producing an erect stem 30 to 90 centimeters tall from a taproot. The leaves are mostly located around the base of the plant, each with an oval blade up to 15 centimeters long held on a petiole. The flower cluster is a panicle of flowers on individual pedicels. Each five-lobed flower is bright to deep blue with white appendages at the center. It is 1 to 1.5 centimeters wide. The fruit is an array of four slightly bristly nutlets.

—Calscape

Photo by Carla Resnick

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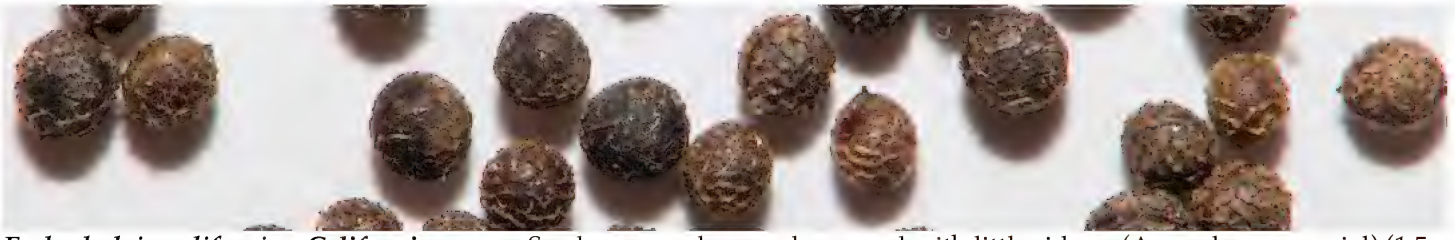
Are you aware how diverse wildflower seeds are—in their shapes and surfaces?

By Rob Schlising and Robert Fischer

A little magnification is needed on the wildflower seeds we plant, to see how beautifully diverse they are in shape and surface features. Ten species we plant in our gardens illustrate some views we may be "missing" as we plant the seeds. All 10 shown are annuals that occur in California, with 9 of them native species. All are from plants grown in Chico. Seeds are shown to different scales, but average length of the seed is given in mm (25 mm =1 inch). All photos are by Robert Fischer.

***Amsinckia tessellata*. Bristly fiddleneck.** Note scar where the seed (nutlet) was attached to the plant. (3.7 mm long)



***Eschscholzia californica*. California poppy.** Seeds are nearly round, covered with little ridges. (Annual or perennial) (1.5-2 mm long)

***Clarkia concinna* subsp. *concinna*. Red ribbons.** Each seed is "slipper-shaped." (2.3 mm long)

***Clarkia rhomboidea*. Diamond Clarkia.** Seeds are nearly "slipper-shaped," and very fuzzy. (2.2 mm long)

***Collinsia tinctoria*. Sticky Chinese houses.**
Seeds are shaped like little bowls (concave). (3 mm long and several mm deep)

***Consolida [Delphinium] ajacis*. Doubtful knight's spur**. Seeds look like little conifer trees. Non-native annual. (2-2.5 mm long)

***Helianthus bolanderi*. Bolander's sunflower**. Seeds (achenes) are variously striped. (6.5-9 mm long)

***Lupinus microcarpus*. Chick lupine.** Oblong seeds have a prominent scar from attachment to plant. (5.5 mm long)

***Phacelia tanacetifolia*. Tansy phacelia.** Oblong seeds are pitted all over. (3 mm long)

***Nemophila menziesii* subsp. *menziesii*. Baby blue-eyes**. Oblong, pitted seeds have ant-attracting elaiosome. (2 mm long)

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Big Bald Rock
Plumas National Forest
Saturday, May 10

Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. with lunch, water, sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. We will drive through Oroville towards Berry Creek and turn right on Bald Rock Road. We can wander on the Sierra granite or take the 2.0 mile loop trail. See the regrowth of various plants after the fire, and enjoy the expansive views of Lake Oroville and the Sacramento Valley.

Leader: Marjorie

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Deer Creek to Rocky Pool
Lassen National Forest
Saturday, May 31

Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch/snacks, water, insect/sun protection and sturdy hiking shoes. Drive 40 miles on Hwy 32 to just before the drop down to Deer Creek. Turn left on a dirt Forest Service Road for 6 miles to Deer Creek. This trail follows Deer Creek downstream for about 2.5 miles to Rocky Pool, crossing four small side creeks and passing thorough several different habitats, which provide us with a variety of species.

Leader: Marjorie

Reserve a spot on Meetup, and please sign a required 2025 waiver.
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Friends of the Ahart Herbarium: All Things Botanically Related Presentation Series

Altered Fire Regimes Threaten Rare Cypress Species in Northern California

Presented by Kyle Merriam, Ecologist

Thursday, May 15, 2025 7 – 8 p.m. (Via Zoom)

Kyle Merriam

Baker cypress (Hesperocyparis bakeri) and Macnab cypress (Hesperocyparis macnabiana) are rare serotinous conifers found in scattered, isolated populations in northern California. These cypress species depend on high severity fire to reproduce, and populations require at least 30 years to accumulate enough cones to replace the parent generation after a fire. Altered fire regimes, including a recent increase in the frequency of high severity fire, pose a serious threat to both species of cypress. Over half of both Macnab and Baker cypress populations have burned in the past 15 years and are now comprised primarily of immature seedlings. Four Macnab cypress and one Baker cypress populations have been extirpated as a result of repeated fires that killed immature seedlings before they produced cones. Neither species of cypress has protected status at the federal or state level and over half of Macnab cypress groves occur on private land. In this talk we will review the status and distribution of these two rare conifers and discuss efforts to protect and conserve these two iconic, fire adapted species in northern California.

https://friendsoftheahartherbarium.org/presentation-series

Native Plant Trail at Crain Memorial Park

Native plant interpretive trail and invasive plant removal projects have been completed at Crain Memorial Park in Concow in recent days. It is a wonderful park to see native plants in their natural growing environment. The park is a great place to visit and is a hidden gem of Butte County located on Jeffry Pine Lane, near Concow Lake. In addition to the native plant trail the park offers a picnic area, restrooms, drinking water, play structure and nice meadow area.

The native plant interpretive trail was a partnership with Paradise Recreation and Parks District and the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians. The beautiful signage found along the creek and forested areas includes names of native plants in the traditional language of the Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians.

The area has had a series of efforts to restore woodland health and vigor after the 2018 Camp Fire including thinning overgrown brush and pile burning, as well as building a composting bioreactor. The Butte County Fire Safe Council (Fire Safe Council), a community non-profit land stewardship organization, recently led a "Doom the Broom" event to pull invasive broom plants in the park. The event was the final culmination in several broom pulling efforts and there is now no visible broom in the Park!

Dooming the Broom at Crain Memorial Park in March 2024. Photo from BCFSC

The Fire Safe Council has also developed an online Story Map for the Concow/Yankee Hill area which captures the local wildfire history, forest stewardship efforts, stories of resilience, successful landowner management strategies and a self guided tour. The story map can be found on the Fire Safe Council website Buttefiresafe.net. For more information please contact the BCFSC at Ready@Buttefiresafe.net or call 530-877-0984.

—Butte County Fire Safe Council

Plant Spotlight

Butte County golden clover

Trifolium jokerstii

Trifolium jokerstii (Butte County golden clover) is a rare 1B.2 annual species of clover known by the common names Jim's clover or Butte County golden clover. 1B.2 plants are rare throughout their range with all of them being endemic, native, and restricted to a certain place. *Trifolium jokerstii* is found only in Butte County, where it is known from eight or nine occurrences near Oroville from 73 records with most being on Table Mountain and the others occurring on private lands. It grows in seasonally moist habitats, such as vernal pools, pastures, and ephemeral creeks within the Valley and foothill grassland (mesic), and growing at elevations from 50 to 480 meters. It was previously included within the description of *Trifolium barbigerum* as an odd yellow-flowered variant of a mostly purple-pink-flowered species which historically flowers from February to May. *Trifolium jokerstii* was elevated to species status in 1998. It was named for the California botanist Jim Jokerst. Jim Jokerst was a graduate of CSU Chico, an excellent field botanist who was well known and highly respected in the northern California botanical community.

Sources: Calscape, CNPS rare plant information, Novon 1998 Vol 8,#1, Facebook

—David Popp

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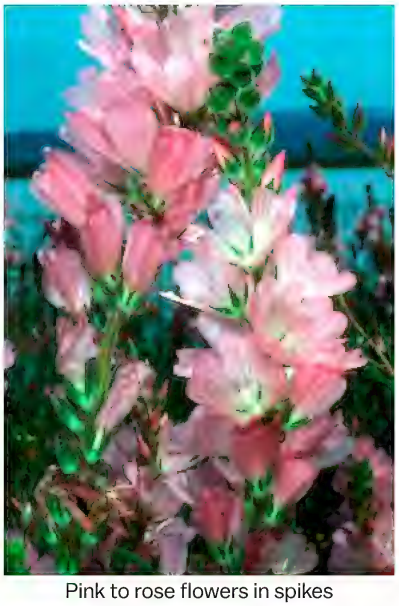
Hairy Checkerbloom (*Sidalcea hirsuta*) is a Handsome Vernal Pool Plant

Long ago I studied a population of *Sidalcea hirsuta* (Malvaceae) in the Nature Conservancy's Vina Plains Preserve, north of Chico in Tehama County. This annual Sidalcea is endemic to California and often occurs only in vernal pools. The study had two goals: 1) to compare population size and seed output over four consecutive years, and 2) to document life cycle features in this vernal pool plant.

Plant shown in its vernal pool habitat

Preserve Manager Barbara Malloch Leitner gave permission to make transect lines through the crescent-shaped population in the SW "corner" of Pool 17; the plants did not extend far out into the pool. My transects covered the whole population, and at regular points along these lines small plots were used to count numbers of flowering plants. By summer, when the pool was dry and the plants had also dried out, samples were carefully taken to count numbers of fruits and seeds.



Pink to rose flowers in spikes

This is a large, showy plant, often up to 0.5 m (perhaps 20 inches) tall, with solitary or multi-branched stems bearing pink to rose flowers in spikes. A photo from the ground-up in a "good year" shows numerous fruits on the dried plants.

The plants varied tremendously in size and numbers 1983-1986, correlating with differences in features of rainfall, temperatures and winds during these four consecutive years. (My detailed statistical analyses of the counts were published in a book "Evolutionary Ecology of Plants" by Bock and Linhart in 1989.)

Fruits on the dried plants

This one population showed a 32-fold difference in numbers of fruiting individuals over the years (i.e., 652 plants in 1984 and 21,113 in 1985). As expected, numbers of plants (and plant size) influenced total numbers of fruits and seeds. And there was a hundred-fold difference in total seed crop possible (e.g., 50,000 seeds in 1984 versus 5,350,000 in 1986!). The term "plastic" is often applied to an annual plant that can have such dramatic fluctuations from year to year.

Dried plants dropped abundant seeds (single-seeded sections of the fruits) on the dry, rocky pool floor. I documented that seeds could germinate after the first

Abundant seeds on the dry, rocky pool floor

continued on next page

Hairy Checkerbloom continued from previous page

Seedlings after the first rain

Visit from bee (*Diadasia nigrihirta*; Apidae)

fall rains (even in early Sept in 1985)—with unlobed cotyledons drastically unlike the highly divided leaves on adult plants. Plants grew all winter in the standing water that built up on the hardpan floor of the pool, although some individuals grew in saturated clay soil adjacent to the standing water. Pollination was not studied, but a neat discovery was that a species of bee (*Diadasia nigrihirta;* Apidae) was among the visitors to the showy flowers. This species is known to collect pollen for its nests only from species of *Sidalcea*—some growing in other habitats at different elevations in the area.

—Rob Schlising

12TH ANNUAL
GARDENS GONE NATIVE TOUR
A FREE SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF APPROXIMATELY 30 LOCAL GARDENS COMPRISED OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS, COORDINATED BY THE SAC VALLEY CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MAY 3RD 2025
9:30AM TO 3PM
REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 12, 2025 AT
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12th Annual Gardens Gone Native Tour

Saturday, May 3, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

The Gardens Gone Native tour is a free garden tour featuring thirty California native plant home and school gardens in the Sacramento region. Gardens are comprised predominantly of California native plants in the urban landscape. These gardens feature a variety of ways in which native plants can flourish in the home garden. Some are professionally designed while others are more functional and are a mixed use of native plants, food production, and living spaces. You will find delightful and sustainable gardens that harness water, create habitats, and add a sense of place. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask garden hosts about their choices and challenges. After registration you will receive the map and tour brochure information the week before the tour begins.

More information at:

https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardens-gone-native-tour/

Register at:

https://2025-gardens-gone-native-tour.eventbrite.com/

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Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

June — August 2025

Field Trips

Register for Field Trips using Meet Up
https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Mount-Lassen-Chapter/

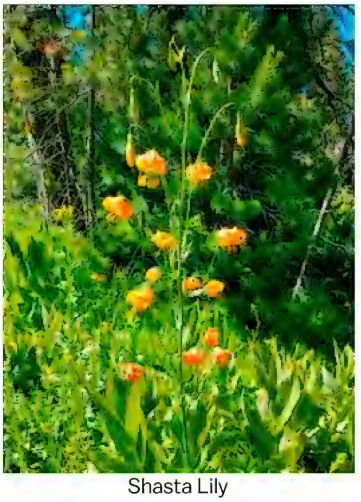
Deer Creek to Rocky Pool
Shasta National Forest
Saturday, May 31

Meet at Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 31 with lunch, water, sun/mosquito protection and sturdy hiking shoes. Leader: Marjorie

Clear Creek Falls
Plumas National Forest
Saturday, June 14

Meet at Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. with lunch, water, sun/mosquito protection and sturdy hiking shoes. There will be flowers along the trail, and the destination is a series of waterfalls. This will be 5.5 miles round trip hike with about 1.26 miles down hill (and back up at the end) and the remainder along the ditch with one section of flume. Leader: Marjorie

Butterfly Valley
Saturday, June 28

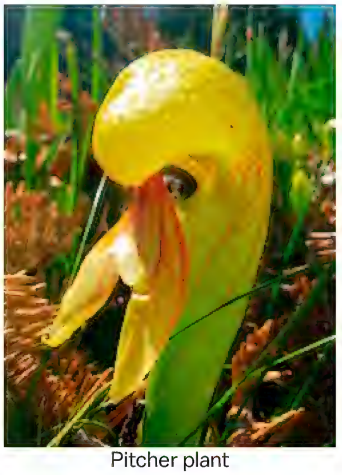

Shasta Lily

Meet at Park & Ride west lot at 8 a.m. with hiking shoes, water, insect and sun block, and lunch or snacks. The Butterfly Valley Botanical Area was designated as a protected area due to its outstanding abundance and diversity of plant life present. It is managed to provide the public with an opportunity to enjoy an undeveloped area of profuse floral display. In addition to the rare California Pitcher Plant, there are three other species of insectivorous plants, 12 species of orchids, 24 species of plants in the Lily family, nine species of ferns and fern relatives.
Leader: Marjorie

Bucks Lake Area
Saturday, July 12

July is a good month for flowers. We will enjoy some meadows and then take the Mill Creek trail for good exercise and great lake views. It is always lovely. See specific instructions for this trip on Mount Lassen Chapter Meetup. Leader: Diane Brown

Kennedy Meadows
Saturday, July 19


Pitcher plant

Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8 a.m. or Jonesville snowmobile parking lot at 9 a.m. Bring water, lunch, insect/sun protection and money for ride sharing. Wear footgear suitable for slogging in marshy ground and for short hikes. We will drive up Hwy 32 and turn off to Butte Meadows and Jonesville. We will walk through a wonderland of blooms in Upper and lower Kennedy Meadows to see a variety of wetland flowers: camas, leopard lily, little elephant heads, Veronica, Tofieldia, bog orchid, and insectivorous sundew. We may stop at Cherry Hill Meadow to see the pitcher plants (*Darlingtonia californica*.) Leader: Marjorie

Boiling Springs Lake to Terminal Geyser
Lassen Volcanic National Park
Saturday, August 2

Meet at Chico Park & Ride at 8:30 a.m. with water, lunch or snacks, sturdy hiking shoes, and sun/mosquito protection. We will drive to the trailhead at Drakesbad and hike the Boiling Springs Nature Trail to little Willow Lake and Terminal Geyser. Leader: Marjorie

Native Plants in Forest Health and Wildfire Safety Projects

It is more important than ever to protect our native plants within woodlands and forests of Butte County, as the rate of wildfire has increased over the past 20 years. Nearly 90 percent of the County's wildland urban interface lands have experienced wildfire since 1999. To lessen the impacts of these fires' devastating effects, forest health and community safety projects have been implemented across all seven ridges of the County where plants like lupine, western red bud, dogwood, California bay, mullein, and yerba santa (to name a few) are found in abundance. These types of projects focus on improving ecological function and adaptation to wildfire by thinning small-diameter, overgrown trees and thick brush, similar to the effects of natural, historical low-intensity wildfires. The goal is to promote the safe reintroduction of prescribed and/or cultural fire.

How have these types of projects helped protect native plant populations?

These projects helped slow wildfire and protect tree canopies, thus fostering native plant regeneration on the forest floor. Several examples of where native plants were able to flourish in forested areas where work was done ahead of the wildfire can be found in the footprints of the Camp Fire of 2018 and North Complex of 2020, as well as the Thompson and Park Fires of 2024.

Pacific Sanicle growing in an area where prescribed fire was used for forest health. Photo from BCFSC

How are native plants identified and protected in these projects?

The Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC), and its partner organizations like the Butte County Resource Conservation District and others, utilize certified botanists to survey each project prior to forest health and wildfire safety forest enhancements. To learn more about where forest health project are near you visit the Butte County Collaborative Group map located at https://butte-county-collaborative-group-bcrcd.hub.arcgis.com.

— Brandi Syfert, Project Manager, Butte County Fire Safe Council

Friends of the Ahart Herbarium: All Things Botanically Related Presentation Series

Firescaping with Native Plants for Habitat

Presented by Adrienne Edwards & Rachel Schleiger

Thursday, June 19, 2025
7 – 8 p.m. (Via Zoom)
https://friendsoftheahartherbarium.org/presentation-series

First Native Plant and Seed Swap Event

To help get more native plants into the hands of local gardeners, AltaCal's Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program will be holding a **native seed and plant exchange** this fall. The date is tentatively set for Saturday, October 25, 2025, with location and hours TBD. All Mount Lassen Chapter members are cordially invited to participate in this event.

As we head into the summer season, it is time to start collecting native plant seeds to share with others in our community. Seed should be collected in gardens only, not wildlands, and be labeled to the best of your ability. If you are a native plant lover who likes to start plants from cuttings and divisions, consider growing a few extra natives to share with others as we all work to rebuild native habitat in our area.

If you are interested in more details or in helping with this new event, please contact Deborah Halfpenny at neighborhoodhabitat.aas@gmail.com, or Jared Geiser at director@altacal.org.

And remember: EVERY YARD MATTERS!!

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Lily Pond and Reflection Lake Trail, Lassen Volcanic National Park

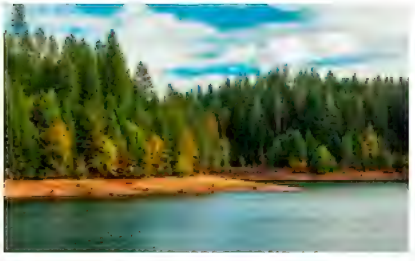
Saturday, September 13

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Chico Park & Ride west lot, nearest the freeway. Drive to the north end of Lassen Park and park near Manzanita Lake. We will explore the easy trail on the opposite side of the road from Manzanita Lake that leads to the Lily Pond and Reflection Lake. Wear sturdy shoes, wear clothes to fit the weather and bring water, lunch/snacks.

Please register with Mount Lassen Chapter Meetup and sign the required waiver.

Shrubs and Trees Along the Shores of Paradise Lake

Saturday September 27



Meet at Chico Park & Ride, west lot, in time to leave at 9 a.m. Walk along the east shore of Paradise Lake from the north parking lot to the picnic site at the main entrance. It is a level trail of three miles out and back. Along the way we will identify and examine hardwoods and conifers, manzanitas, willows, and hazelnut bushes. Who knows, there may also be a few late season flowers that weathered the hot, dry summer. Wear sturdy shoes, insect/sun protection, water, and lunch/snack.

Please register with Mount Lassen Chapter Meetup and sign the required waiver.

Stonegate Update

In July a federal judge ruled that aspects of the Stonegate Development Project analysis and approval process were unlawful, and prohibited project implementation until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepares a legally adequate Biological Opinion and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers consults with FWS on the potential impacts of the project on the giant garter snake, a federally listed threatened species.

As a reminder, the Stonegate project is a proposed 314-acre mixed-use development located on both sides of Bruce Road north of Skyway in Chico. The site includes some wetlands, vernal pools, and Butte County meadowfoam (BCM), an endangered species endemic to Butte County. The Mount Lassen Chapter Conservation Chair had submitted comments on the project's Environmental Impact Report, advocating changes to the project that would be more protective of BCM which were rejected by the City of Chico.

The City approved the Stonegate project in 2018 with additional protection of BCM. The Corps issued its Clean Water Act permit for the project in 2020. In 2021 the Center for Biological Diversity and AquAlliance, a local environmental advocacy group, filed a lawsuit alleging violations of the federal Endangered Species Act and other violations of federal laws. The lawsuit was based in part on the FWS's inadequate Biological Opinion, which failed to address potential harm from climate change on vernal pool species and failed to consider the project's potential adverse impacts on the giant garter snake, as well as the Corps' failure to consult with the FWS regarding impacts on the giant garter snake.

According to local coverage of the court decision (Chico Enterprise-Record, July 19, 2025), the director of AquAlliance, Barbara Vlamis, noted that the value of the habitat on the Stonegate property "was documented for three decades by federal agencies and widely known by local residents and government." The project developer, Epick Homes, was reviewing the court's decision and evaluating its options. —*Chris Mueller*

Have you seen the marvelous fruits of all five species of *Marah* (Cucurbitaceae) in California?

—Rob Schlising

Years ago I studied seed germination in *Marah* (manroot, wild cucumber) plants, and traveled the state to collect and photograph the capsular fruits of all five California species in this genus. All species have yearly leafy vines, with tendrils and small flowers that range from white to soft yellow. But what neat variation in the fruits and seeds these fives species show!

Figure 1

Marah fabacea, California Manroot (named for seeds that apparently looked like fava beans), is one of the two species occurring in the Mount Lassen Chapter (MLC) area. Separate populations of this species show that the globose fruits can vary a lot in the density and firmness of their surface prickles—called "prickles" and not "spines," since they are epidermal outgrowths (Figure 1). The fruits typically expose three or four seeds when they dry out and irregularly dehisce. *Marah fabacea* occurs in parts of the Great Valley and widely over lower parts of mountains in cismontane California. Maps in Calflora (www.Calflora.org) show that its geographic range overlaps with the other four species. Populations are also reported from southwestern Oregon.

Figure 2

Marah macrocarpa, Chilocote, with a Latin name that means "large-fruited," is found in Southern California, and ranges south into Baja California, Mexico. It has larger, longer fruits, with longer, sharper spines (Figure 2) than most *M. fabacea*, and also has more seeds (usually two tiers of four seeds each in a fruit).

Figure 3

Marah oregana (Oregon Manroot), on the other hand, ranges north from south of the San Franscisco Bay Area, mainly along the Pacific Coast (and sometimes inland), as far as British Columbia in Canada. It is so-named since the first specimens were collected in Oregon in 1834 (but named as a species of Sicyos at that time). The fruits are more egg-shaped and usually pointed, with fewer and softer prickles, and often with green stripes on the body (Figure 3.) Usually four to six flattened, disc-shaped seeds are contained.

Figure 4

Also in northern California, but strictly inland, *M. watsonii* (Taw Manroot) occurs in the Inner North Coast Ranges and in the foothills of the southern Cascade Mountains (including the MLC area) and the Sierra Nevada (with disjunctions reported in southern Oregon). This species was named to honor the Harvard University botanist, Sereno Watson. It has the smallest fruits in the genus, often just 2-3 cm (+/-1 inch) wide; these are usually quite spherical and with few flexible prickles and nice green stripes (Figure 4). Only one to four nearly round seeds are produced.

Figure 5

The southern Sierra Nevada foothills are the main range of the largest-fruited species—*Marah horrida* (Sierra Manroot), well named for the fruit's massive size and its long, firm, sharp prickles (Figure 5). It has many large seeds, flattened at one end (Figure 6)—which are among the largest and heaviest seeds produced by any California herbaceous vascular plant! This is now considered the only species of *Marah* that is endemic to California.

Figure 6

Species of *Marah* are geophytes, with the annual fruiting vines dying back to the large underground tubers after fruits dehisce. Thus, the mainly inland populations cope well with the more intense Mediterranean climate. Vines in populations that occur nearer the cooler Pacific Coast can remain green well into the summer.

Are there other genera of herbaceous plants in California where the fruits of its species are so distinctively different as they are in *Marah*?!

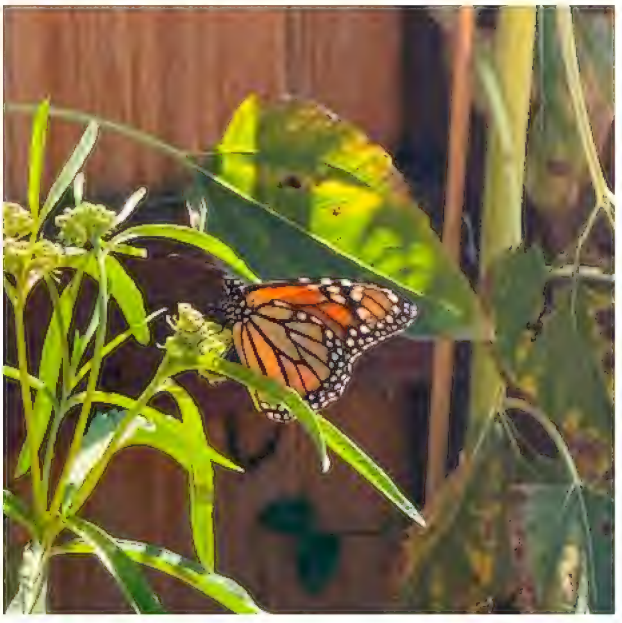
Restoring Monarch Habitat and Building Firewise USA Communities on the Ridge

Since moving to Paradise, California, in September of 2024, Allie Matteucci, a backyard habitat gardener, has been integrating habitat gardening and firewise landscaping principles into her yard. Collaborating with Calli Jane West, of the Butte County Fire Safe Council, has been an integral part of that wildscaping partnership journey.

This fall we will install a 90-plant Monarch Habitat Garden at Paradise High School through the Xerces Society, in coordination with teacher Chris Hansbrough. The Monarch Habitat Garden will be located just outside of Mr. Hansbrough's classroom for students and families to enjoy. They hope to add a seed library to build long-term community access to these habitat plants. Funding from the Rebuild Paradise Foundation was recently secured to install a wheelchair-accessible pathway for students to have full access to the future garden.

The Xerces Society Habitat Kit Garden at the High School fits into a larger community garden framework across the Ridge that is grounded in native plant education and stewardship. A native plant pollinator garden is being planned along the bike path near Berkshire Ave in Paradise and the community is also seeking Firewise USA status. There are now 22 Firewise USA community sites on the Ridge, 41 county-wide and growing. The program supports residents in protecting their homes and the habitats around them.

Another exciting project we are undertaking is Pollinator Paradise, a Monarch Fellowship Milkweed Hub, which provides free native milkweed and nectar plants to restore



monarch butterfly habitat on the Ridge. The first plant giveaway was in June 2025 at The Birkenstock Store. A hundred free native plants were distributed to anyone interested in restoring monarch habitat on their property. The first monarch butterfly (pictured here) of the season emerged in Allie's backyard in early August. This single monarch butterfly is a hopeful harbinger of the good things to come.

To volunteer or connect with these efforts, contact Ready@buttefiresafe.net.

— Allie Matteucci and Calli Jane West

PLANT SPOTLIGHT: White sage (*Salvia apiana*)

Native to Southern California's coastal sage scrub region, White Sage (*Salvia apiana*) is one of the state's most important Salvia species. White Sage is fragrant, with silver-white leaves, and clusters of white flowers with lavender streaks. Young leaves start off green and turn white as they get older.

White Sage is deeply rooted in the cultures and lifeways of Indigenous communities of Southern California and northern Baja, the only region this sage naturally occurs in the world. This plant's limited wild populations are under threat from poaching, climate change, and development.

Nursery-grown White Sage is a valuable pollinator plant in the garden. The small white flowers are a favorite of carpenter bees, bumble bees, and hummingbirds. In Latin, "apiana" means of or belonging to bees. The blooms are accented by silvery-white foliage. White Sage is a drought-adapted low-water shrub that grows best in full sun. Pruning helps keep it neat and compact.

—Calscape

White sage (*Salvia apiana*) is more than a beautiful, aromatic California native—it's also a hidden gem for native bees!

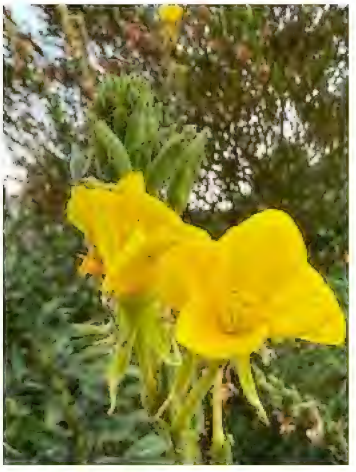
When the tall flower stalks finish blooming, don't rush to cut them down. Inside, those stems are hollow—perfect natural nesting tunnels for small solitary bees. By leaving some stalks standing or pruning them at different heights, you create safe, ready-made homes that help our native pollinators thrive.

Above-Ground Nesting Bees: 30 percent of bee species in California nest in hollow twigs, branches or stems of woody plants. In each brood cell a female bee will deposit a single egg on a pollen ball Tip: If you prune, cut just above a node and leave at least 8–12 inches of stalk so the hollow tubes remain helpful for bees.

—UCANR

California Native Plant and Seed Swap

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 10 a.m – 1 p.m.
Butte County Library Chico Branch, 1108 Sherman Ave.



To help get more native plants into the hands of local gardeners, AltaCal Bird Alliance's Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program will be holding a California native seed and plant exchange. All Mount Lassen Chapter members are invited to participate in this event. Please bring native plants and seeds to share with others in our community. Seed and plants should be collected in gardens only, not wildlands, and be labeled to the best of your ability. Together, we can all work to rebuild native habitat in our area. If you are interested in more details or in helping with this new event, please contact Deborah Halfpenny at neighborhoodhabitat.aas@gmail.com, or Jared Geiser at director@altacal.org.

Friends of the Ahart Herbarium: Workshop

Pests and Diseases of Oak Woodlands

Saturday, September 27, 2025, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Presented by Michael Jones, University of California Cooperative Extension, and Curtis Ewing, Forest Entomology and Pathology Program, CAL FIRE

Registration required: https://forms.gle/7ghRpAKV3FDCSNY7A

$135.00 Non-Members

$100.00 Members of the Friends of the Ahart Herbarium

$50.00 Student (Two spaces)

There are many pests and diseases that cause decline in oak trees. This workshop will explore the common pests of oaks, including a discussion of the biology of the pests and common symptoms and signs of infection. In addition to the common pests, learn about a new and potentially devastating invader in California's oak woodlands, the Mediterranean Oak Borer!

The workshop will begin with brief classroom presentations discussing forest health issues, the biology of common oak pests, common diseases impacting oaks, and the symptoms to look for of infestation. Following the classroom presentations the workshop will proceed to a local field site in an oak woodland where signs of pests and disease will be observed and management options discussed.

ISA Credits will be available.

About the Instructors
Michael Jones, PhD, Forest Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension – Mendocino, Lake & Sonoma Counties.

Michael earned his PhD in Entomology at State University of New York, Environmental Science and Forestry, and studied the invasive forest pest emerald ash borer for his graduate work. Prior to attending graduate school, Michael was a research associate in the Department of Entomology, UC Davis, in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, in southern California where he worked on a variety of forest pest research projects involving the detection, evaluation, and management of native and invasive forest pests, including gold-spotted oak borer. Michael started his forest health career as an undergraduate at UC Davis in the Plant Pathology department, working in the Rizzo Lab helping with research on sudden oak death.

Curtis Ewing, Forest Entomology and Pathology Program, CAL FIRE, Cascade and Northern Sierra Region.

Dr. Curtis Ewing is a Senior Environmental Scientist with CAL FIRE, in the Forest Entomology and Pathology Program. Curtis earned a PhD in Forest Entomology from Cornell University and has studied plant-fungus-beetle disease dynamics in California and Hawai'i. He has also studied Lyme disease ecology, monitored invasive species, organized the annual Insect Pavilion for the State Fair at Cal Expo in Sacramento, and studied many other aspects of insect diversity, ecology, systematics, taxonomy and diversity.

What to bring: Bring a sack lunch (there will only be a short break before travelling to the field site), water and appropriate shoes and clothing for time in the field.

Please register in advance. Size is limited to 24 participants; without a minimum of 8 enrolled by September 2 the event will be canceled.

Registration Questions? (530) 898-5356

Workshop Questions? mjones@ucdavis.edu

You will receive more information on workshop logistics closer to the date of the workshop!

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Contribute to *The Pipevine*

Email: carlaphoto@gmail.com

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March	February 10
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September	August 10
October	**September 10**
November	October 10
December	November 10

MEETINGS

Executive Board Meeting:
Third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., except June, July & December.
All CNPS members welcome.
To attend email:
mountlassen@cnps.org

These businesses support the goals of CNPS. Members get a 10% discount on plants.

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(530) 892-2511

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www.theplantbarn.com
ThePlantBarn@MagnoliaGardening.com

magnolia GIFT & GARDEN
1367 East Ave, Chico | 530.894.5410 | www.MagnoliaGardening.com

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1710 PARK AVE, CHICO
IN BACKYARD OF 1078 GALLERY
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CALL FOR DAYS AND TIMES
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189 E. 8th St, Chico

MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
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PO BOX 4067
CHICO, CA 95927-4067

The Pipevine

Membership Form
California Native Plant Society
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ **New** ☐ **Renew**

Suggested Membership Amounts

☐ $50 ☐ $120 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ Other ($25 min.)

Send Membership Application to:
California Native Plant Society
Attn: Membership 2707 K Street, Suite 1 Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

For memberships for organizations or to become a Perennial monthly sustainer contact CNPS.org

The Pipevine

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

October 2025

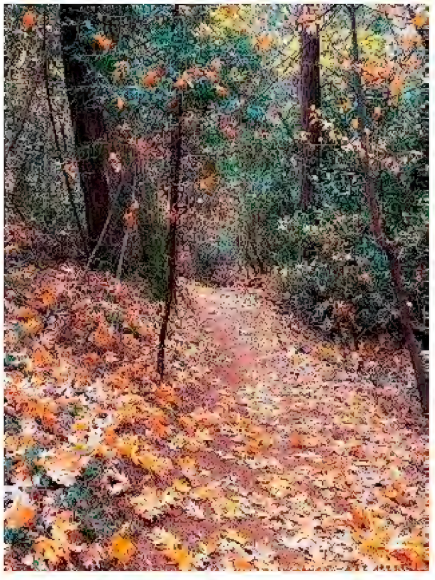
Field Trips

Register for Field Trips using Meet Up
https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Mount-Lassen-Chapter/

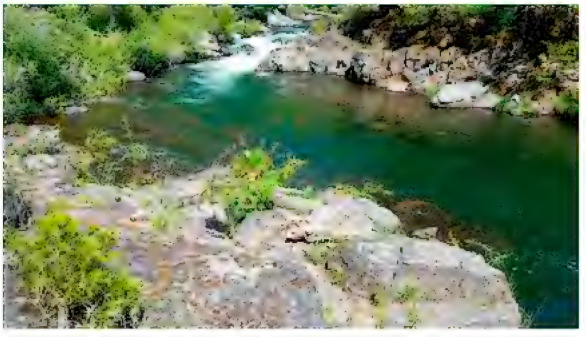
Carnegie Trail and Flume Trail
Paradise Pines Greenbelt

Saturday, October 11

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (west end nearest the Hwy 99 Freeway) at 9 a.m. Bring lunch or snacks, water, sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. We will drive up Skyway to Colter Road and then to the Carnegie Road trailhead. The walk starts as we walk through a grove of big leaf maple trees which hopefully will be in full fall color. At the first intersection, we veer right to view a 3' waterfall (if there has been recent rain) and connect to the Flume Trail as it follows the ditch. There are no metal flumes to cross. A connecting trail leads to Li'l Falls. The return is by a partial loop using Lower Carnegie East Trail as we return to the Carnegie Trailhead.



Leader: Marjorie



Fall Color on the Deer Creek Trail
Lassen National Forest

Saturday, October 25

Meet at Chico Park & Ride (west end nearest the Hwy 99 Freeway) at 8:30 a.m., or at the trailhead (north side of bridge over Deer Creek on Hwy 32) at 9:30 a.m.

Hopefully we will be timing this right for the fall colors at Deer Creek. We will drive east on Hwy 32 to the trailhead at Hwy 32 and the red Deer Creek Bridge. Starting at 3200 ft. elevation, this is a gradual 1.5 mile hike downstream to have lunch by the renovated fish ladder and Lower Deer Creek Falls. Big leaf maple, dogwood and black oaks should be in fall color along with Indian rhubarb, spice-bush, Sierra mint and California fuchsia. Wear sturdy shoes and bring lunch, water and money for ride sharing.

Leader: Marjorie

Mt. Lassen Chapter Organization Meeting

Tuesday, October 14 at 7 p.m.
Butte County Library, Chico Branch
1108 Sherman Ave, Chico, CA 95926

California
Native Plant Society
Mount Lassen Chapter
mountlassen.cnps.org

Revive the Mt. Lassen Chapter

We are having this meeting to gather people to help get the chapter going again. This meeting is open to everyone to come together with ideas and energy. Bring your friends that may be interested and meet others interested in native plants. You do not have to know a lot, you just have to have the interest to participate and have fun. Share this notice.

As they say, many hands make for an easy task.

Native Plants and Firewise USA Communities in Oroville and Berry Creek

Native plants are thriving in the parks in Oroville and Berry Creek! The Feather River Recreation and Parks District (FRRPD) has taken strong actions to increase native vegetation and reduce invasive plants throughout its seven parks.

In Oroville, FRRPD recently planted 200 native trees in partnership with the Oroville Botanic Garden and Education Center through a Proposition 68 grant. Along with the planting is the stewardship and care of these trees as they continue to grow into the future. The FRRPD has been partnering with the sheriff work crew to eliminate high weed areas. They have done large amounts of fuels reduction and removal of invasive species. A large portion of Downtown Oroville, including Riverbend Park, was recently submitted for recognition to the Firewise USA program with support of the Butte County Fire Safe Council. FRRPD has organized park clean up days which focus on removal of invasives plants, such as Tree of Heaven and Spanish broom, and the seeding of natives, such as California Poppies.

In Berry Creek, the FRRPD has continued to support post-fire recovery in Berry Creek Park from the devastating impacts of the North Complex/Bear Fire five years ago. In an effort to make the park safe to access, FRRPD partnered with the Berry Creek Community Council and removed more than 40 hazard trees the Berry Creek Park. Citizens in Berry Creek and the Lake Madrone Homeowners Association have been working at grassroots levels to strengthen their community's wildfire safety by participating in local Firewise USA events and reconvening the Berry Creek Fire Safe Council.

To learn more about these projects, please reach out to Ready@buttefiresafe.net.

—Joe Velaques, Feather River Recreation and Parks District and Calli Jane West, Butte County Fire Safe Council

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CNPS 2026 CONFERENCE

Save the Date: February 5-7, 2026 • Riverside, California at Riverside Convention Center

Registration opens in fall 2025

The 2026 CNPS Conference is a gathering of the diverse people and perspectives powering California's vibrant native plant movement. We welcome new and seasoned members of the community to join us as we come together to learn and share in celebration of California's plants and our connections to them.

Conference presenters represent a wide range of backgrounds and areas of expertise, from Indigenous and Western sciences to horticulture, education, and advocacy. Together, we'll explore how our collective work today can lead to a better tomorrow for California's native plants, through programming in four specific areas:

Plant Science

Plant science provides a crucial framework for how we study and understand native plant communities and their habitats. This area offers ways to discover and share ideas, research, methods, and tools at the forefront of this dynamic field.

Conservation

Conservation invites planners, data scientists, land stewards, community advocates, and more to share knowledge and ideas on the best ways to protect and steward natural landscapes and ensure their resilience to climate change.

Horticulture & Land Management

This track explores how we can deliver biodiverse gardens, resilient lands and thriving ecosystems by tending native plants. Sessions are designed for gardeners, horticulturists, restoration professionals, growers, landscapers, government agencies, and advocates.

Education

An ideal track for educators, program leaders, naturalists, interpreters, advocates, community scientists, and others working to connect people with the natural world and an ethic of conservation.

Sign up to receive 2026 Conference updates and information. For questions or assistance, please email conference@cnps.org.
https://conference.cnps.org/

California Native Plant and Seed Swap

Sunday, October 26, 2025, 10:30 a.m – 1 p.m.
Butte County Library Chico Branch, 1108 Sherman Ave., Chico

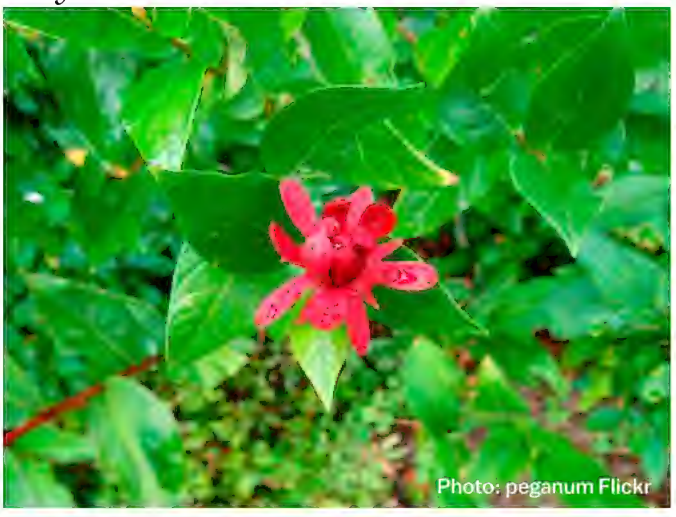
The Neighborhood Habitat Certification Program will be holding its first free community California Native Plant Seed and Plant Swap on October 26, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Chico Branch Library. This is an opportunity to get some free native plants to add to your gardens – just in time for planting season!

How this swap works is that you bring garden-sourced native plants you have grown and/or seeds that you have collected to the swap, and leave with other plants or seeds that others have brought. Plants or seeds that you bring must be cleaned and properly labeled with scientific name (to the best of your ability). For seeds, please include the year collected. If you don't have seeds or plants to share, come anyway because there should be plenty to share. There will be an information table at the event to help you if you have questions during the event. If you have questions prior to swap date, please contact Deborah Halfpenny (neighborhoodhabtiat.aas@gmail.com) or Jared Geiser (director@altacal.org).

Volunteers Are Needed! If you would like to volunteer and help out at the event, please contact us soon at the above email addresses. Volunteers get first choice on plants and seeds!

Plant Spotlight: Spice Bush

Calycanthus occidentalis



Spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*) is a deciduous shrub with bright green leaves and unusual lotus-shaped red flowers that can resemble a small magnolia flower. The flowers are strongly scented, with a wine-like fragrance, and appear from late spring through early autumn. Sap beetles pollinate the flowers. The bark also has a strong smell, like camphor, that is released when the stems are scraped.

Left alone, it will become a large, rounded shrub 3 to 13 feet tall and 3 to 12 feet wide. Trimmed, it can become a multi-trunked small tree. Part-shade is ideal for this plant but it tolerates full sun with lots of moisture in somewhat cooler areas. It accepts full shade but will grow more slowly with a more open habit. It is adaptable to different types of soil, and is somewhat deer resistant.

— *Calscape*

Napa Valley CNPS Fall Plant Sale

Saturday & Sunday, October 18 & 19
Skyline Wildnerness Park, 2201 Imola Ave, Napa

CALIFORNIA
NATIVE
PLANT SALE
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
OCTOBER
18 & 19
SAT: 10 AM TO 3PM
SUN: 10 AM TO 2PM
SKYLINE WILDERNESS PARK
2201 IMOLA AVE., NAPA
FREE ADMISSION TO SKYLINE PARK DURING SALE
MORE THAN 2000 NATIVE, DROUGHT-TOLERANT PLANTS FOR SALE !!
EXPERTS ON HAND TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS
Presented By
THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
NAPA VALLEY CHAPTER
All proceeds benefit the Chapter's educational programs
and care of our community native gardens,
including the Martha Walker California Native Habitat Garden.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.NAPAVALLEYCNPS.ORG

Friends of the Ahart Herbarium: Annual Meeting & Special Presentations

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on Zoom

Evolution of the Fire-Adapted California Flora presented by Jon E. Keeley

Priority effects of foliar fungal endophytes in leaf litter decomposition presented by Tawny Bolinas, 2023 Jim Jokerst Field Botany Grant Award Winner

Evolution of the Fire-Adapted California Flora

Over the past century much has been written on the evolution of the California flora. Drivers of change have focused on the role of climate, topographic relief, and substrates, however the role of fires as a selective force has largely been ignored. Macrofossil data provide convincing evidence that fires have been a regular feature of California landscapes throughout the Cenozoic. Understanding how fire has shaped plant adaptations requires recognition of the different fire regimes in a range of ecoregions in the state. In this presentation Dr. Keeley will explore fire regimes in herbaceous, shrubland and forest types throughout the state and how different regimes have selected for different fire-adaptations. Some traits such as vegetative resprouting from burned skeletons appear to be quite ancient and not always associated with fire. Others such as the basal burls (lignotubers) that give rise to postfire resprouts in a few genera, as well as smoke-stimulated seed germination of soil stored seed banks evident in both woody and herbaceous taxa, date to the Miocene and are associated with the rise of the Mediterranean climate, which increased fire predictability. Looking forward Dr. Keeley will discuss how global changes are likely to alter fire regimes and their impact on different fire response types.

Jon E. Keeley, is Senior Research Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, adjunct professor at UCLA, research associate with the California Botanic Garden, former program director at the National Science Foundation, recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and is an Ecological Society of America Fellow. The California Botanical Society dedicated their 2025 volume of Madroño to him and this same year the Southern California Horticultural Society awarded him (with his wife Melanie) Horticulturist of the Year. He has spent sabbaticals in all five Mediterranean climate regions of the world. His research has focused on the evolution of fire-adaptive traits, ecological life history strategies of plants and role of global changes in climate and population growth on management of fire-prone ecosystems. In addition, he has done extensive research on photosynthetic pathways in vernal pool plants and is co-author of the The Jepson Manual treatments for Isoetes and Arctostaphylos. He has over 400 publications, which have garnered more than 47,000 citations. He is senior author of a 2012 Cambridge University Press book Fire in Mediterranean Climate Ecosystems: Ecology, Evolution and Management.

2023 Jokerst Student Award Winner: Priority effects of foliar fungal endophytes in leaf litter decomposition

Foliar endophytic fungi live inside plant leaves and are invisible to the unaided eye. These fungi can defend against pathogens and help plants retain water in arid environments, but many of their ecological roles remain unclear. The study hypothesized that certain endophytes persist in leaves as dormant commensals, becoming active upon senescence to initiate decomposition and influence subsequent fungal community assembly via priority effects. Researchers tested this through a 36-week field experiment using Quercus lobata leaf litter in mesh bags exposed to different fungal treatments. Using high-throughput sequencing, the researchers tracked fungal community shifts and found that while distinct taxa were associated with each treatment, decomposition rates were similar. Site-level effects and stochastic processes played a larger role in shaping community composition than endophyte presence. Study findings suggest that endophytes exert weak priority effects under natural conditions and highlight the complexity of fungal interactions in litter decomposition.

Tawny Bolinas is a first-generation immigrant from the Philippines, now based in California. She holds a B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology and an M.S. in Biological Sciences from California State University, Chico. Under the mentorship of Dr. Gerald M. Cobián, her graduate research in fungal ecology explored the ecological roles of foliar fungal endophytes, with a particular focus on how the order of their arrival influences leaf litter decomposition in Quercus lobata (valley oak) leaves. Tawny probably ranks among the top earners of merit scholarships, awards, and honors during her baccalaureate and graduate programs at Chico State.

Register to attend here: https://csuchico.zoom.us/meeting/register/rf1J4Qu4SVGGNjBY7uvzuw#/registration

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MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
PO BOX 4067
CHICO, CA 95927-4067

The Pipevine

Membership Form
California Native Plant Society
I wish to affiliate with the Mount Lassen Chapter

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ **New** ☐ **Renew**

Suggested Membership Amounts

☐ $50 ☐ $120 ☐ $500 ☐ $1000 ☐ Other ($25 min.)

Send Membership Application to:
California Native Plant Society
Attn: Membership 2707 K Street, Suite 1 Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

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The Pipevine

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

November 2025

Field Trips

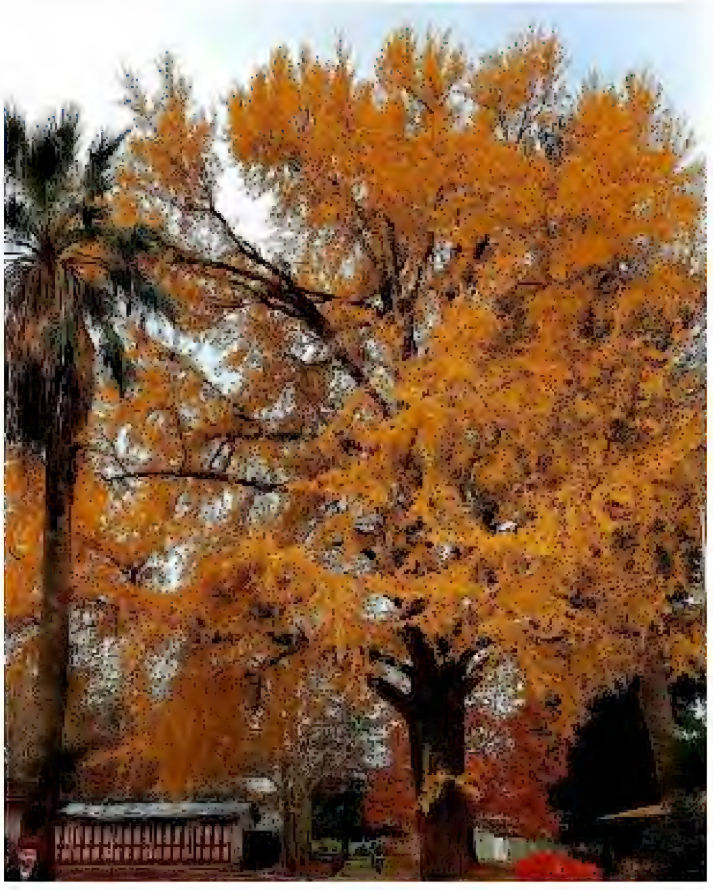
Register for Field Trips using Meet Up
https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Mount-Lassen-Chapter/

Devil's Kitchen, Upper Bidwell Park

Saturday, November 8

Meet at 9 a.m. at the Chico Rod and Gun Club in Bidwell Park and carpool to the Diversion Dam. We will then walk the Yahi Trail from the Diversion Dam to the Devil's Kitchen overlook, and take the trail to the bottom to look up at the rock formations. Bring sturdy shoes, water, snacks/lunch and dress for the weather. Rain cancels. Finish by 2 p.m.

Leader: Marjorie



Street Trees of the Chico Avenues

Saturday, November 22

Meet at 9 a.m. at the corner of Memorial Way and Oleander. We will walk about three miles through The Avenues and learn about several of the native and non-native street trees growing in the area. Discussed will be their identification, origin, growing conditions, unique features and the advantages and disadvantages of a good street tree for Chico. Finish by noon.

Leader: Marjorie

Discover How You Can Help Local Pollinators

Test drive the new Calscape Pollinator Companion Tool (in beta): This new resource uses the latest plant-pollinator data to suggest native plants that support the greatest diversity of pollinators in your ecoregion. If you have a vegetable garden, it can also recommend plants that attract shared pollinators and help boost your yield.

https://pollinators.calscape.org/pollinator-companion/welcome

Native Plants in Forest Ranch at Sierra Cascade Blueberry Farm

Sierra Cascade Blueberry Farm is located within a mile of both the 2018 Camp Fire and 2024 Park Fire. John and Arman, owners of the farm, were grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Butte County Fire Safe Council's Forest Health Project, which aims to reduce wildfire risk and enhance forest health, and was funded by CAL FIRE.

Before mechanical mastication for fuel reduction began, biological surveys were conducted to identify in-ground bee nests and bird nests, with protective measures put in place. The mastication machine used a low-ground-disturbance head that trimmed vegetation just 1.5 inches above the soil surface. Key ecological considerations included:

- Leaving poison oak as a food source for Northern Flickers and other bird species.
- Limbing Ponderosa pines up to 12 feet to reduce ladder fuels.
- Planning future low-intensity prescribed burns using accumulated pine needle cast and black oak leaves.

John and Arman also shared their plans to build a new fire-resistant home on the property using Fazwall, a material made from wood chips, bentonite clay, and cement.

Native plants like tiger lily, soap root, and western bracken fern can be found under the beautiful sierran mixed conifer forest canopy at the farm in Forest Ranch. The 60-acre parcel—including an 8-acre blueberry farm—thrives thanks to a variety of ecological factors:

- Watershed function: With 60–80 inches of annual rainfall, the land helps recharge the aquifer that sustains berry production.
- Pollination support: Gopher and mouse burrows provide habitat for native bumblebees, which are essential for pollinating blueberry flowers—requiring 3,000–4,000 bees per acre at peak bloom.
- Natural cleanup crew: Band-tailed Pigeons help clear leftover fruit after harvest, reducing disease risk.
- Bird of prey allies: Cooper's Hawks help manage smaller bird populations naturally.
- Wildlife movement: Reduced fencing allows migratory deer to move through the property—fortunately, they aren't significant browsers of the berries.

Understory at the farm after fuel reduction.

—Calli-Jane West

Plant Spotlight: Western False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)

Amorpha fruticosa is a species of flowering plant in the legume family known by several common names, including desert false indigo and bastard indigobush. It is found throughout eastern Canada, northern Mexico, and most of the continental United States. In California it is native to the southwestern part of the state with scattered occurrences in the Central Valley. *A. fruticosa* grows as a hairy, thornless shrub that can reach 3 to 4 meters in height and spread to twice that in width. It is somewhat variable in morphology. The leaves are made up of many hairy, oval-shaped, spine-tipped leaflets. The flower cluster is a spike-shaped raceme of many flowers, each with a single purple petal and ten protruding stamens with yellow anthers. The fruit is a legume pod containing one or two seeds.

This plant likes moist (but not saturated) areas, and will spread wherever it finds suitable moisture. It is loosely branched and can become leggy with age; it needs plenty of room to spread out. Its spreading tendency and fibrous root system make it useful for bank stabilization. It is winter deciduous so will be less attractive for several months out of the year. It is the host plant for the Southern Dogface butterfly.

—Calscape

Leonora (Ellie) Enking (Flickr)

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The Pipevine

Newsletter of the Mount Lassen Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

December 2025

Mount Lassen Chapter (Re)Organizational Meetings

The Mount Lassen reorganizational meeting held on October 14 was a great success. There were 34 people attending, all of whom expressed great interest in reviving regular meetings along with associated activities. Volunteers to serve as chapter president and vice president at the meeting subsequently opted to share the position of co-presidents. They are Ashley Worthy, John Kelly, and Laurel Martinez. John prepared a google form survey about people's specific interests in native plants, which he and the chapter sent out to meeting participants and members. The next reorganization meeting was Tuesday, November 18, at 7 p.m. at The Commons in Chico (because the library meeting room wasn't available). The results of a planned vote to fill the president and other officer positions and discussion of actions to advance Mount Lassen Chapter in its revival were not available before this issue of The Pipevine goes to press. See announcement this page for information on the upcoming December meeting.

CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER

Mount Lassen Chapter December General Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 7 p.m., Chico Library, 1108 Sherman Ave, Chico

The Mount Lassen Chapter will be having its next general meeting on December 9th. We will be discussing committees and future progress for the chapter. Please tell anyone you know who is interested in plants, this meeting is open to everyone who is interested!

CNPS 2025 Legislative Session Recap

The 2025 legislative session has come to an end, and the bills have crossed the Governor's desk. Now that the dust has settled after an eventful session, we're here to break down the outcomes of key legislation for CNPS.

First, the good news

We're excited to celebrate the several bills that passed in favor of native plants, healthy habitats, ecologically informed wildfire management, and biodiversity across the state.

The successes of this year would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of grassroots advocates across the state, including CNPS members and supporters, as well as our legislative champions whose leadership made this progress possible. Every call, email, meeting, and social media post mattered during the several key moments throughout this session. We look forward to carrying this energy and engagement into 2026!

Key Legislation:

A.B.581: State shrub, Bennett

Native plants were in the spotlight this session with the passage of AB 581, officially establishing bigberry manzanita (Arctostaphylos glauca) as California's state shrub. The bill highlights this iconic species' vital ecosystem services and helps spread awareness of the important role of chaparral plant communities.

S.B.653: Wildfire prevention: environmentally sensitive vegetation management, Cortese

Following the influx of wildfire-related bills this session, we were pleased to see the passage of SB 653, which encourages wildfire mitigation projects to use environmentally sensitive vegetation management practices that maintain ecological health and strengthen biodiversity. The bill promotes practices that avoid habitat type conversion and the introduction of invasive species,

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Register for Field Trips using Meet Up
https://www.meetup.com/California-Native-Plant-Society-Mount-Lassen-Chapter/

Moss and Bryophyte Hike at the Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area

Date and Time TBD - Stay Tuned for an Email Update!

Come join us for a moss walk with Jordan Collins and John McLaughlin at Forks of Butte Creek Recreation Area. We will be doing the Butte Creek Trail, a 2.4 mile out-and-back trail starting at 2300 feet following Butte Creek. Along the way we will see many kinds of moss and lycophytes led by two botanists very knowledgeable about the subject. These plants are on their own scale, and are not much talked about. This will be a special opportunity to learn about these tiny, under-appreciated organisms in a unique environment!

Wear sturdy shoes and warm clothes. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Bring a hand lens if you have it. The trailhead is at the end of an unpaved road. If you have a car that you feel comfortable driving on rough, unpaved roads, please bring it for carpooling purposes.

Leaders: Jordan Collins and John McLaughlin

Tour of the Chico State Biological Sciences Greenhouse

Chico State Campus
Saturday, January 10, 11 a.m.

Meet at the Chico State Biological Sciences Greenhouse (located between Yolo Hall and the train tracks). Parking is available at the stadium.

Shaine Hill will be hosting a tour of the Chico State Biological Sciences Greenhouse, which houses a desert, temperate, and tropical living collection of over 1,500 species of plants from all over the world. This is a great chance to see flowers in the middle of December. The greenhouse also has a collection of California natives and student research projects. One of the highlights will be five amazing *Welwitschia mirabilis*, a strange plant that can grow over 2000 years in the wild. If you haven't visited before, make sure to join us!

Hike to Monkey Face/ Maidu Caves

Upper Bidwell Park
Thursday, January 1, 10 a.m.
Meet at the trailhead at Parking Lot E at 10 a.m.

Celebrate the New Year's with us by hiking up the North Rim Trail to the Maidu Caves and Monkey Face. We might see a few flowers produced by late fall rains, and we will see stunning vistas of the park. Come and see more than 25 bedrock stone mortars made by many years and years of indigenous people living in the area including a small waterfall over the entrance (if it has been raining), as well as views of the geological features of the park, including the Tuscan, Lovejoy, and Chico formations. The hike will start out in the flat grassy section with large blue oaks and will go up the rocky slope of the north rim, and then will follow the rim of the canyon for vistas of the park and the valley. The trail will be rocky and will have some relatively steep sections up the rim of the canyon. Rain cancels. Reserve a space on Mount Lassen Chapter Meetup.

Bring sunscreen, wear sturdy shoes and bring lunch, water and snacks. Wear warm clothes.

Leader: Marjorie McNairn

Winter Wreath-making Weekend

The Friends of the Ahart Herbarium are partnering with the Gateway Science Museum and Cultivating Place to host two spectacular holiday gatherings celebrating native plants, community, science, and these longstanding and much-needed North State institutions.

Choose between an evening party at the Gateway, or an afternoon at the Ahart:

Saturday evening, Dec 6, 5 – 8 p.m. in the galleries at the Gateway Science Museum

Dress up, sip some Sierra Nevada, Cordi Wine, or Mulled Cider/Chai and make a difference at the Gateway Science Museum. Enjoy good community, catered appetizers, music, a silent auction, and let us guide you in how to craft your own fresh, native plant wreath or sprig for your holiday home using pre-cut greenery. A wonderful date to get in the holiday swing with style. Register on the Gateway Museum website: https://www.csuchico.edu/gateway/events/wreathing-weekend-2025.shtml

Sunday afternoon, Dec 7, 1 – 4 p.m. in the Ahart Herbarium, Holt Hall at Chico State

Come in your comfy garden garb, grab your gloves and clippers and enjoy the array of colors, textures, and fragrances of California plants in this popular wreath workshop at the Ahart Herbarium. Space is limited so register SOON to save your seat. You'll feel inspired by the plants, and people (like the Friends) doing good work. Register on this website to reserve your spot:

https://forms.gle/3cPebE5pzt9Gz8wq7

Registration Questions? (530) 898-5356

Workshop Questions? aledwards@csuchico.edu

You will receive more information on workshop logistics closer to the date of the workshop!

Photo by Jordan Collins

Plant Spotlight

Bigberry Manzanita
Arctostaphylos glauca

The passage of AB 581, officially established bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) as California's state shrub.

Bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*) is a large evergreen shrub to small tree and is recognized as California's official state shrub. The leaves are large and light gray-green. In spring hanging bunches of urn-shaped white flowers cover the stems. Insects and hummingbirds love the flowers, and the fruit attracts a wide variety of wildlife. The edible fruit, the largest of any manzanita, is round or egg-shaped, and light red. This is a long-lived manzanita, moderate to slow growing. It can reach 100 years of age or more, and does not begin to fruit until it is around 20 years old. It grows to 3 to 20 feet tall and 6 to 20 feet wide, with interesting twisting branches and smooth red bark that readily peels.

It is best to plant bigberry manzanita on rocky slopes, avoiding south-facing slopes. It will usually do better if planted near large rocks, or at least with rocks placed around it. It prefers well-draining, acidic soil. It thrives in sun or part-shade. After the first year, direct summer water will often kill this plant.

—*Calscape*

Good Fire - Protecting Native Plants in Oroville Foothills

A successful prescribed fire project took place in the Oroville Foothills near the intersection of Highway 162 and Forbestown Road in late October. Goals of this "Good Fire" burn included reducing fire hazardous overgrowth, and protecting native plants through catastrophic wildfire prevention.

Fire scars of the 2020 North Complex and 2017 Wall Fire are less than 3 miles from the project area. Both prior fires burned hundreds of homes, caused human fatalities, and wreaked environmental devastation in Berry Creek, Feather Falls, East Oroville Foothills, and the State Parks land at Loafer Creek Recreation Area.

Prescribed fire is a critical method of ecosystem management that can lead to safer, healthier, and more resilient landscapes for native plants and our communities. The project area included 175 acres of Blue Oak and Grey Pine dominated forest, which had become overgrown and lacked of maintenance work. The project took place with favorable weather conditions for smoke emissions, with a dedicated fire crew onsite providing careful oversight and monitoring.

The project was managed by the Butte County Fire Safe Council (BCFSC), with burning implemented by Terra Fuego Resource Foundation, and was made possible through funding from CAL FIRE 's WUI Wide Forest Health Program, as part of the California Climate Investments Program.

Sarah Jo McDowell, BCFSC Project Manager at the Bidwell Bridge Prescribed Fire Restoration Project

An exciting next step in the project will be exploring reseeding native grasses and forbes by working with a local botanist. This phase of the project will increase soil health, pollination, habitat, and forage in the ecosystem.

The Butte County Fire Safe Council is a grassroots non-profit organization that implements a variety of fuels reduction and forest health projects in operation around Butte County. More information can be found on BCFSC's website Buttefiresafe.net, Facebook, or by calling our office at (530) 877-0984.

—Calli-Jane *West, Community Partner Liaison*
Butte County Fire Safe Council

CNPS 2025 Legislative Session Recap *continued from page 1*

advancing wildfire management approaches that safeguard both communities and the environment.

A.B.1319: Protected species: California Endangered Species Act, Schultz

As environmental protections are threatened at the federal level, this bill would help provide an important backstop by creating a process for emergency adoption of federally listed species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) through December 31, 2031.

S.B.427: Habitat Conservation Fund, Blakespear, Stern

The Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) is vitally important for conservation funding in California and this bill extends the annual $30M funding to HCF from 2030 to 2035.

The bad news

Although some legislative outcomes were not as favorable, they will help inform our priorities and focus areas as we head into 2026.

On June 30, SB 131 was voted into law via a last-minute budget trailer bill, adding a new suite of exemptions to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As many of you may know, CNPS, alongside a broad coalition of over 200 environmental and community organizations, advocated for two key amendments:

1) Remove the "advanced manufacturing" exemption

2) Amend "natural and protected lands" to include habitat for special-status species and lands important for Natural Community Conservation Plans/Habitat Conservation Plans

Unfortunately, even though many state leaders acknowledged the need for a clean-up bill in response to SB 131, legislation that addressed each of these key issues did not move forward within the 2025 session. Without these changes, various projects could impact California's most imperiled biodiversity without any knowledge of what was lost.

Our work continues

Fortunately, state legislators are continuing to take action to address the shortcomings of SB 131. Thank you to Assemblymember Damon Connolly and a growing number of over 20 co-authors for introducing AB 1083, which aims to fix the principal community and environmental concerns of SB 131. We anticipate seeing action on AB 1083 at the start of the 2026 session. Please stay tuned in the coming months on ways to support the passage of this important legislation.

—*CNPS*

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